

Application No. 10/736,485

Reply to Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2-13 have been cancelled and original claim 14 depends from claim 1, amended claim 15 depends from claim 2, and claims 17-21 are original claims depending from claim 16.

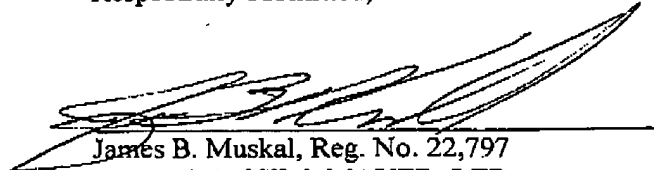
The Examiner has restricted the claims to Group I for the apparatus including Claim 1 and 14-15 and Group II including claims 16-21 drawn to a method. Applicant elected Group I which now includes claims 1 and 14-15. Claims 16-21 for the method are believed to be linked by way of the limitations as to the underlying conduit so that restriction may no longer be required and it is requested that it be withdrawn. In the event that there is still disagreement, Applicant would like to elect the continued prosecution of Group II for the method and reserve the right to file a divisional for the apparatus claims 1, 14-15.

It is believed that the claims now do more adequately define applicant's invention and patentably distinguish over the references of record whether taken singly or combined. Also, the claims as amended clearly avoid any obviousness-type double patenting over applicants' U.S. Patent 6,896,007. In the event that the Examiner may disagree with this analysis, Applicant is prepared to enter a terminal disclaimer should it be required.

Conclusion

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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